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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## *House of Representatives*

**THE HONORABLE PAUL E. GILLMOR**  
**OF OHIO**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, April 30, 2003**

*Extension of Remarks*

MR SPEAKER: I rise today in support of H.R. 1350. Reauthorizing and improving the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is important to the future of many American children and their families. The special education community is now in a state of crisis—teachers are leaving, students are being over-identified, and litigation has taken the place of education. The true spirit of this legislation has been lost and because of this lost vision many children have been denied an appropriate education.

I commend my colleagues on the Education Committee who, under the leadership of my colleague from Ohio, Chairman Boehner, reported a bill that brings back the spirit of the original legislation. This bill not only empowers local school districts, but more importantly it empowers parents with the freedom to choose what education plan best suits the needs of their child. Reducing bureaucratic red-tape, supporting teachers, and empowering parents are the keys to restoring faith in the special education community and the keys to providing those children with special needs a quality education. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and insure that no child is ever left behind.